(e) Once Amnesty is declared the Indian Missions take up the matter with the local authorities for either regularizing the stay of the Indian workers or organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates for their deportation to India. Further, the complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach of contracts etc., received from the Indian workers are also taken up by the Mission with the sponsors/employers, Labour Department and local police authorities for appropriate action.

Women harassed by spouses

1865. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of complaints from women harassed by their spouses abroad have gone up since 2004;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received since 2004, year-wise; and

(c) the action that has been taken through Indian Mission abroad, diplomatic and political channels?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The number of complaints received in the Ministry in the last 3 years are us under:

2005	—	19
2006	—	65
2007 (till October)	—	116

(c) The Ministry has launched a scheme this year to provide legal and financial assistance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses. Under the Scheme, Missions based in countries having a large Indian Diaspora and comparatively more number of such complaints, have been authorized to empanel credible Indian Women's Organization/Indian Community Association/NGOs to provide legal assistance to such victims. Financial assistance up to a limit of US $ 1,000 per case can be released to these Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs to meet initial cost and incidental charges for documentation and filling of the cases by them on behalf of the eligible victims.

Indian labourers in foreign countries

†1866. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidents of misbehaviour with Indian labourers working in foreign countries have substantially increased;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indian labourers are forced to work at hazardous work places in difficult conditions with the connivance of touts and such cases are on the rise;

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government in this regard; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.